
Journal Abstracts

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Brewer, M.S. & Prestat, C.J. (2002). Consumer attitudes toward food safety issues. *Journal of Food Safety*, 22(2), 67-83.

The objectives of this study were to survey consumer attitudes about the safety of the food supply in general, relate general concern levels with groups of specific items of concern, regulatory issues and prioritization of food safety funding areas, and to compare these results with results of a similar survey conducted in this lab in 1994. Factor analysis of 360 consumer responses showed six factors underlying the 31 specific items evaluated on individual 5-point scales (1 = non concern, 5 = very strong concern). MANOVA using general level of food safety concern (independent variable) were significant. Univariate tests showed that as general level of concern with food safety increased, so did concern with chemical issues (artificial colors, pesticide residues, hormones, preservatives, irradiated foods, excessive processing of foods, and plastic packaging), spoilage issues (restaurant sanitation, shelf-stable foods, pasteurized foods, refrigerated, prepared foods, improper food preparation, microbiological contamination and nutritional imbalances), health issues (vitamin, calorie, carbohydrate, fat, cholesterol and sugar content), regulatory issues (pesticide safety, fish and imported food inspection, and health labeling of food), deceptive practices (naturally occurring toxins, food ingredients associated with allergies and weight reduction diets advertised as healthy) and information issues (availability of detailed information at stores, markets and restaurants).

Cha, K.-W. & Weagley, R.O. (2002). Higher education borrowing. *Financial Counseling and Planning*, 13(1), 61-73.

Using the 1992-93 Baccalaureate and Beyond Longitudinal Study and 1997 follow-up, this study examined which factors influence the decision to borrow and the amount of borrowing for higher education. A double-hurdle model was applied to analyze both the decision to borrow and the borrowed amount equations. Current income and asset holdings had generally negative impacts on higher education debt, while expected future income increased amounts borrowed. Total costs had a positive effect on the probability and the level of borrowing. Total grants received had a negative influence on amount borrowed, but a positive influence on the participation decision.

Cook, C.C., Crull, S.R., Fletcher, C.N., Hinnant-Bernard, T., & Peterson, J. (2002). Meeting family housing needs: Experiences of rural women in the midst of welfare reform. *Journal of Family and Economic Issues*, 23(3), 285-316.

Though sometimes overlooked, the availability, affordability, and quality of housing in rural communities are a potential barrier to transitioning from welfare to work. In this investigation we examine housing issues confronting 17 rural women and their families who were recipients of welfare benefits in 1997. Respondents' housing accounts illustrate the significance of reliance on both government housing subsidies and informal subsidies supplied by friends,

family, and more distant relatives. The study focuses on concerns women have in meeting their families shelter needs and the complexities involved in doing so. The findings of the research suggest that additional housing policy initiatives, as well as a targeted research agenda are needed, especially for families whose welfare benefits are nearing termination.

Lauderdale, D.S. & Kestenbaum, B. (2002). Mortality rates of elderly Asian American populations based on Medicare and Social Security data. *Demography*, 39(3), 529-540.

We present sex- and age-specific death probabilities for the elderly of six Asian American subgroups—Chinese, Filipino, Indian, Japanese, Korean, and Vietnamese—based on data from Social Security Administration files. We determined ethnicity by combining race, place of birth, surname, and given name. The data source and ethnic determination are the same for deaths and the population at risk, avoiding the problem of noncomparability present when data for the numerator come from vital records and data for the denominator come from census records. We found that death rates for elderly Asian Americans are lower than those for whites, and that socioeconomic differences between subgroups do not translate into like differences in mortality.

Lee, J. (2002). The poor in the financial market: Changes in the use of financial products, institutions, and services from 1995 to 1998. *Journal of Consumer Policy*, 25(2), 203-231.

The poor are in a disadvantaged position in the financial market. In this article, a review is given of public policy initiatives that are implemented to help the poor as well as an examination of how the poor are served in the financial market, using data from the 1995 and 1998 Survey of Consumer Finances provided by the Federal Reserve Board. Specifically, poor households' use of depository and credit products, the financial institutions that provide these products to the poor, and the way in which the poor conduct their financial business (e.g., visit to branch offices, ATMs, etc.) are compared to that of non-poor households. Marketing and public policy implications are drawn from the findings.

Miyazaki, A.D. & Krishnamurthy, S. (2002). Internet seals of approval: Effects on online privacy policies and consumer perceptions. *The Journal of Consumer Affairs*, 36(1), 28-49.

The use of Internet seal of approval programs has been touted as an alternative to potential legislation concerning consumer-related online privacy practices. Questions have been raised, however, regarding the effectiveness of such programs with respect to maintaining privacy standards and aiding online consumers. The authors examine these issues in a series of three studies, the first of which is an exploratory application of Federal Trade Commission privacy standards to various online privacy policies in an effort to determine the ability of seal of approval program participation to act as a valid cue to a firm's stated privacy practices. The second and third studies are experiments designed to ascertain how online firm participation in Internet seal of approval programs affects consumers. Implications for consumer policy are discussed.

Paeratakul, S., York-Crowe, E.E., Williamson, D.A., Ryan, D.H., & Bray, G.A. (2002). Americans on diet: Results from the 1994-1996 Continuing Survey of Food Intakes by Individuals. *Journal of the American Dietetic Association*, 102(9), 1247-1251.

Objective. To examine the prevalence of dieting to lose weight or for a health reason in a representative sample of US adults.

Design. Cross-sectional study design.

Subjects/Setting. Data from 10,144 participants of the 1994-1996 Continuing Survey of Food Intakes by Individuals (CSFII 1994-1996) were used in the analyses. All data were self-reported.

Statistical analysis. Analysis included: cross-tabulation of dieting status by sociodemographic characteristics; comparison of the type of diet, the reason for dieting, and the source of diet used by men and women; comparison of the nutrient intake and health status of dieters and nondieters.

Results. Prevalence of dieting varied by gender and race, being highest in white women (21%) and lowest in Hispanic men (8%). About 71% of all dieters reported that they were dieting to improve health, and 50% reported that they were dieting to lose weight. Dieters reported lower intakes of total fat, saturated fat, cholesterol, sodium, monounsaturated fat, polyunsaturated fat, calcium, and selenium compared with nondieters. The rate of chronic health conditions was higher among dieters than nondieters. Self-reported physical activity was similar in both groups.

Conclusions. The prevalence of dieting varies according to sociodemographic characteristics. The reason for dieting and the type of diet used by dieters also vary and need to be studied further. Our results suggest that the dieters generally consumed a more nutrient-dense diet than the nondieters but still low in certain nutrients.

Nord, M., Andrews, M., & Winicki, J. (2002). Frequency and duration of food insecurity and hunger in US households. *Journal of Nutrition Education*, 34(4), 194-201.

Objective: This study examines the extent to which food insecurity and hunger in US households are occasional, recurring, or frequent/chronic.

Design/Variables: The federal food security scale measures the severity of food insecurity in surveyed households and classifies households as to their food security status during the previous year. The Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement (CPS-FSS) collects the data elements used to calculate the food security scale. Supplementary data on the frequency of occurrence of the behaviors and experiences comprising the food security scale are also collected by the CPS-FSS, but most of this information is not included in the food security scale. This study analyzes these supplementary data along with the food security scale and its constituent items using data from the Food Security Supplement of the nationally representative CPS conducted in August 1998.

Results: About two thirds of households classified as food insecure by the federal food security scale experience the condition as recurring, and around one fifth experience these conditions as frequent or chronic. The monthly prevalence of hunger is about 60% of the annual prevalence, and the daily prevalence is about 13% to 18% of the annual prevalence.

Conclusions and Implications:

Nutritionists can use these findings to enhance the informative value of food insecurity and hunger statistics from national, state, and local surveys when interpreting them to policy makers and to the general public.